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Subject: Congress of Homeless Palestinians
Various Information Report No: A-144
Date of Information: Current

Place Acquired: Beirut, Lebanon Date Acquired: 31 May 51

Evaluation: J-3 Date of Report: 1 June 51

Source: []

1. source states that the Congress of Homeless Palestinians, an organization originally limited in its activities to the Beirut area, has now spread throughout the refugee camps in Lebanon. The most important camps are in the Naq al-Barid, Deirayeh, Miya Miya, and Ain Hilweh camps. These camps together contain the vast majority of Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon.
2. Source was told a few days ago that the principal center of the organization is at the Deirayeh camp, where it is mostly made up of former Palestinian Communist Party members from Jaffa and Western Galilee. The leader of the Congress of Homeless Palestinians, Mahfuz al-LISWI, visited the Deirayeh camp a few days to congratulate those who had assaulted the Arab Higher Committee group on 13 May and to encourage them to further aggressions of this sort. He stayed at the camp for three days, until Lebanese authorities learned of his presence and expelled him as a trouble-maker.
3. source says that he has been told by an informant that the Lebanese Surete, having received information to the effect that the organization is potentially dangerous, has sent some of its agents to refugee camps in the Beirut area to investigate. Law enforcement agencies have been instructed to arrest any persons instigating violence among the refugees or disturbing them.
4. The Congress of Homeless Palestinians, having recently learned of the presence of Hajj Amin al-HUSSINI in Damascus, prepared a long letter for him in which it complained mainly about Arab Higher Committee leadership. It accused those leaders of cooperating with the UNRWA and the "imperialists," and gave

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evidence to prove its contentions. It demanded that the Arab Higher Committee leaders resign. The letter was given to Yunusuddin Miar AWDAD for delivery to Hajj Amin al-HUSAINI.

5. The following, says source, are the principal activities of the Congress of homeless Palestinians:
 - a. Instigating the refugees against the UNRWA, accusing it of failing to give them necessary assistance.
 - b. regarding the U. S. and Britain as mainly responsible for the refugees being homeless.
 - c. alienating the refugees from the Arab Higher Committee and the Arab League, saying that those organizations are cooperating with the western powers and trying to resettle the refugees, rather than repatriate them.
 - d. attempting to increase the number of its followers in the refugee camps, so as to be able to stage large demonstrations when necessary.
 - e. Distributing inflammatory tracts. It has already distributed a pamphlet entitled "The road Back," in which it summarizes its demands.

Field Notes:

Paragraph 1: The Congress of Homeless Palestinians has been reported in MLB's-1973 and 2494.

Paragraph 2: Muhammad al-LISWI has been reported in MLB's-2503, 2508, 2514, 2526, etc. The 13 May incident has been reported in MLB-2607.

Paragraph 3: Hajj Amin al-HUSAINI, Grand Mufti of Palestine, has been reported in MLB's-2508, 2538, 2565, 2622, etc. For AWDAD see MLB's-2536, 2581, 2605, 2607, etc.

Paragraph 5: The pamphlet "The Road back" was mentioned in MLB-2494.

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